

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143006

ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, TBIO, SF

SUBJECT: H POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

REF: STATE 106002

1. NIH HAS PROPOSED TO SEND DR. PETER G. CONDLIFFE, CHIEF OF SCHOLARS AND FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM BRANCH OF FOGARTY INTERNATIONAL CENTER, TO SOUTH AFRICA TO INVESTIGATE, TOGETHER WITH EMBASSY, SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR SOUTH AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS IN NIH PROGRAM.

2. DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF INFORMING SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES THAT ALTHOUGH PROGRAM HAS BEEN SUSPENDED WE WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH THEM TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION IN SELECTION PROCEDURES AND THUS MAKE
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POSSIBLE CONTINUED SOUTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION. BEFORE PROCEEDING, HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF EMBASSY BELIEVES ANY MECHANISM COULD BE DEvised WHICH WOULD ACCOMPLISH THIS PURPOSE. AT THIS TIME WE ARE NOT CONCERNED WITH ACCEPTABILITY TO SAG OF OUR "INTERFERENCE", OR THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ADOPT ANY MODIFIED MECHANISM WE MIGHT PROPOSE AS RESULT OF INVESTIGATION. INITIAL

CONCERN IS WHETHER, BY ADDITION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER RACIAL GROUPS TO SELECTION PROCESS, DEVELOPMENT OF DIFFERENT MECHANISMS ALTOGETHER, OR OTHER CHANGES,

APPROACH COULD BE FOUND WHICH COULD BE CREDIBLY DEPICTED AND DEFENDED AS LEGITIMATE EFFORT TO BREAK DOWN DISCRIMINATION, RATHER THAN DISGUISED FORM OF COLLABORATION WITH REGIME WHICH STRENGTHENS APARTHEID SYSTEM.

3. IN REACHING ITS JUDGEMENTS, POST SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT NIH POST DOCTORAL PROGRAM IS DEVOTED TO "PURE" RESEARCH IN NATURAL SCIENCES, AS OPPOSED TO SOCIAL SCIENCES OR OTHER ASPECTS OF HEALTH CARE TO WHICH BLACKS MIGHT BRING SPECIAL EXPERIENCE, QUALIFICATIONS, AND PERSPECTIVES TO HELP OVERCOME CENTURIES OF INFERIOR BLACK EDUCATION. CANDIDATES WHOSE NOMINATIONS ARE FORWARDED TO NIH FROM PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES MUST THEN COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER ON WORLD WIDE BASIS WITHOUT RESPECT TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO RULE OUT DELIBERATE POLICY OF MAINTAINING RACIAL BALANCE AS WE DO IN CASE OF IV PROGRAM FOR SOUTH AFRICA. VANCE

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